



SANDRA KAY RUCONICH, 6 years old, will appear in the Disabled American Veterans fifth annual Klamath Basin talent contest. Sandra Kay will do her "One Man Show," as her entry on the program, to be held at the Mills School auditorium December 3.

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Scientists In Quandary Over Possible Cure For Notorious Hodgkins' Disease

By **DELOS SMITH**
United Press Science Editor

NEW YORK (UP)—Discoverers of new viruses rarely can produce pictures or any other evidence you can hold in your hands. So Drs. Warren L. Bostick and Lavelle Hanna are at pains to make no flat assertions in revealing their capture of a virus which seems new and also seems to have a hand in mysterious, incurable, and always fatal Hodgkins' disease.

The evidence was impressive enough to cause a well-known medical specialist consulted by the writer to study it and then pronounce it the most hopeful "avenue" for the eventual conquest of an incurable disease he had ever seen. But if there is a "cure" at the end of the "avenue," it will take a long time to reach it.

Hodgkins' disease causes an unstoppable and progressive enlargement of the nodes of the body's lymphatic system. It is cancer-like and some authorities consider it a form of cancer. But it has always suggested, too, the sickening processes of an "infectious agent," that is, a bacterium or a virus. Science knows definitely that the "infectious agent" — if there is one — cannot be bacteria. That

leaves the possibility of a virus, but if a virus, it would have to be one which is invisible under even the most powerful microscope and also one possessed of unusual chemical properties. There is not the slightest evidence of Hodgkins' disease ever having been transmitted from one human being to another.

At the University of California School of Medicine in San Francisco, Drs. Bostick and Hanna took lymph nodes from patients with the disease, ground them up, injected the material into fertile chicken eggs. After a few days, they took material from those eggs and injected it into more eggs. This they did as many as ten times, because chick embryos nurture viruses and presumably viruses are multiplied by this "serial passage."

From the last eggs in the series, they took material and injected it into the brains of new-born mice. After allowing for more virus-incubation, they ground up the brains and injected the material in the brains of more new-born mice. After repeating this through five to seven sets of mice, the material developed the power to sicken and kill mice.

Keep in mind that the egg embryos and the mouse brains showed no detectable sign of harboring virus until the last mouse-brains developed the power to kill. Also keep in mind that the scientists repeated the whole procedure

starting with lymph node material taken from healthy human beings, and failed to produce any disease. Also they took every precaution to eliminate the possibility of "picking up" some latent virus of mice. So it seemed clear they had

a new virus which causes in mice a fatal disease with some resemblance to Hodgkins' disease. But whether it is the "causative agent" of Hodgkins' disease in human beings remains to be proven and it is going to be difficult to do, they

said in the technical journal, "Cancer Research."

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